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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY French Equatorial Africa

SUBJECT Pointe Noire, Port Information

PLACE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED  
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DATE (OF INFO.)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Officers of two U.S. merchant ships.

/The Office of Naval Intelligence furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with paragraph 3c of NSCIC #7. This information was obtained by OSNIP and was forwarded as TI report 18-54./

1. Floating Drydock: Floating drydock has recently been placed in the port, but the purpose for which it will be used is not known to anyone interviewed by the source. The harbor pilot advised that it is capable of lifting 1200 tons, while another qualified observer estimated 1600 tons. Its dimensions are roughly 250' by 80'. It is reportedly a submarine drydock brought from Germany where it was built and presumably used during World War II. It is currently moored in the harbor just east of the harbor entrance along the breakwater. Although it may possibly have lines mooring it directly to the breakwater, the only apparent access to it is by launch.
2. Operational Trends: The port of Pointe Noire is presently more or less at a standstill. Export and import trade seems to be falling off. Not only is there no noticeable port development, but the port shows signs of regression. The few cargo handling cranes previously in operation are now being dismantled. The only part of the port apparently in full operation is the small marine railway used for servicing fishing boats and lighters.
3. Future Prospect: There is some talk that Pointe Noire will become the shipping point for ore coming from the interior of French Congo and Gabon, but there is also much disagreement between the various political authorities as to what port should have the much coveted traffic.

-end-

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